

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are the claims presently pending in the Application.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended for a stylistic reason. The claim amendments include no impermissible new matter. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims. No estoppel is created.

Rejection of Claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill would have understood the recited feature based on Applicant's disclosure. (See, by way of example, and not by way of limitation, Specification, page 8, lines 11-12; page 10, line 19 - page 11, line 5.) At most, the basis of the Examiner's rejection amounts to grounds for an objection. However, to expedite review of the Application, Applicant amends claims 1, 8 and 15. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 8 and 15 should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,263,342. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 require, *inter alia*, retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources.

Among the problems recognized and solved by Applicant's claimed invention is that of extending a federated search¹ According to an aspect of Applicants' claimed invention, a search may include one or more search gateway data sources, as well as multiple heterogeneous datastores and federated datastores. By way of illustration, and not by way of limitation, a search gateway datastore, such as, for example, a DES (domino extended search) datastore, can expand a search to several other data repositories, including different types of data sources, and is not limited to a particular terminal data repository. (See, for example, Applicant's disclosure, pages 44-46). The prior art, including Chang, does not identify this problem, let alone disclose or suggest the solutions provided by Applicant's claimed invention.

Chang discloses federated searching of heterogeneous datastores using a federated datastore object. Chang discloses employing an object-oriented data model to define a federated datastore object and a federated query object that translates a generic query into the appropriate queries for each native data store, such that the federated datastore object acts as a virtual datastore for one or more heterogeneous data stores. The federated query object manages subqueries to provide a unified conceptual view of the heterogeneous datastores of a digital library domain.

Chang does not disclose or suggest a search gateway data source that may be searched as part of the federated search. In a previous Office Action, the Examiner has recognized Chang's

¹ Applicant does not represent that every embodiment of Applicants' claimed invention necessarily addresses this problem let alone provides the solutions herein discussed. This discussion illustrates merely some aspects of Applicants' claimed invention.

failure to disclose one or more search gateway data sources. (Paper No. 10, page 3). Further, as the Examiner seemed to recognize, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Chang may not be combined with another reference and applied against the present Application.

In the present Office Action (Paper No. 19, page 5), the Examiner alleges that Chang, col. 2, lines 15-16 discloses a search gateway data source. That passage includes a discussion of business data that is indexed by fields of the data itself, describes a digital library and the indexing of different types of objects, and describes the indexing information used for searching physical libraries and other types of catalogues and data sources. Chang does not disclose or suggest a search gateway data source, as *inter alia*, recited by independent claims 1, 8 and 15. Clearly, Chang does not disclose or suggest retrieving data from a plurality of datastores including data from one or more search gateway data sources, as further required by claims 1, 8 and 15. Accordingly, Chang does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 1, 8 and 15.

Claims 2-7 depend from independent claim 1, claims 9-14 depend from independent claim 8, and claims 16-21 depend from independent claim 15. Therefore, claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 incorporate novel and nonobvious features of their respective base claims and are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

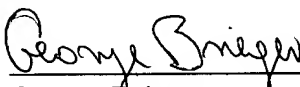
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/399,682

A8009

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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